

## Chapter 18.10

### WILDLIFE

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**Authority:** Pursuant to its authority under Article [IV](#), Section [5](#) of the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe, as certified on November 24, 1993, the Yurok Tribal Council hereby enacts the ordinance codified in this chapter to ensure sustainable wildlife populations are maintained within the Yurok Reservation.

## Article I. General Provisions

### 18.10.010 Short title.

The ordinance codified in this chapter shall be referred to as the “Yurok Tribe Wildlife Ordinance.” [Ord. 45 § 8001, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.020 Findings.

The Council hereby finds as follows:

- (a) Since time immemorial deer, elk, bear, mountain lions, waterfowl and other wildlife species have been profoundly important to the Yurok people for cultural, ceremonial, religious, subsistence, and other purposes fundamental to the Tribe’s way of life. Due to changes in hunting practices, and habitat modification, wildlife populations within the Yurok Reservation and Yurok ancestral territory have decreased.
- (b) The Constitution of the Yurok Tribe mandates that the Tribe shall “restore, enhance, and manage the tribal fishery, tribal water rights, tribal forests and all other natural resources.”
- (c) The Yurok Tribe maintains the rights to fish, hunt, and gather for subsistence and cultural purposes in all areas within the Tribe’s jurisdiction. The regulation of Tribal activities is a sovereign responsibility of the Yurok Tribe. [Ord. 45 § 8002, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.030 Purpose.

The ordinance codified in this chapter is enacted for the purposes of wildlife management to ensure wildlife populations on lands within Tribal jurisdiction are a sustainable natural resource for all current and future generations. [Ord. 45 § 8003, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.040 Scope.

This chapter shall govern all persons under Tribal jurisdiction within the Reservation. [Ord. 45 § 8004, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.050 Definitions.

“Antlerless deer or elk” means all does, cows, fawns and calves. Bull elk and buck deer are considered antlerless until they have acquired at least two inches of growth on at least one antler.

“Council” means the Yurok Tribal Council.

“Hunt” means to actively engage in the steps, process, or pursuit leading up to a take.

“Reservation” or “Yurok Reservation” means all lands within the exterior boundaries of the Yurok Tribe Indian Reservation.

“Take” means to intentionally harm, wound, trap, capture, kill or bring about the death of wildlife.

“Tribe” means the Yurok Tribe acting through the Tribal Council and its authorized entities and programs.

“Wildlife” means animals that live in the wild and also domesticated animals.

“Yurok ancestral territory” means that area as described in the Constitution of the Yurok Tribe Article [I](#), Section [1](#). [Ord. 45 § 8009, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

## Article II. Harvest Management

### 18.10.060 Hunting season.

The take of specified wildlife is authorized only during the following seasons:

- (a) Deer season will start annually on the first Saturday in July and end the final Sunday in December.
- (b) Elk season will start annually on the third Saturday in August and end the second Sunday in December. [Ord. 45 § 8101, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.070 Hunting hours.

No wildlife species shall be hunted or taken once it is one-half hour after sunset nor before it is one-half hour before sunrise. Hunting may commence once it is one-half hour before sunrise but must cease once it is one-half hour after sunset. [Ord. 45 § 8102, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.080 Spotighting.

The use of a spotlight, or other instrumentality capable of emitting a large beam of light, while hunting or taking wildlife is prohibited. [Ord. 45 § 8103, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

## Article III. Wildlife Management

### 18.10.090 Deer.

In order to sustain wildlife populations, the following limitations are imposed for the take of deer:

- (a) Take of antlerless deer is prohibited at all times.
- (b) Take of deer is limited to bucks with at least one fork branched within the upper two-thirds of one antler. [Ord. 45 § 8201, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.100 Elk.

In order to sustain wildlife populations, the following limitations are imposed for the take of elk:

- (a) Take of antlerless elk is prohibited at all times.
- (b) Take of elk is limited to bull elks with at least one fork branched within the upper two-thirds of one antler. [Ord. 45 § 8201, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

## Article IV. Enforcement and Sanctions

### 18.10.110 Violations.

Any violation of this chapter is punishable by a fine in addition to any other specified sanction. [Ord. 45 § 8201, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.120 Fee schedule.

Tribal Council by resolution without amending this chapter may establish a Wildlife Management Fee Schedule setting sanctions, including fines, for any violation of this chapter or fees to administer this chapter. [Ord. 45 § 8202, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### 18.10.130 Penalties.

Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety is authorized to confiscate any weapons used or animals taken in violation of this chapter. The minimum fine for a violation of this chapter shall be \$500.00. Any weapon

confiscated shall be returned upon payment of any fine ordered for the violation. [Ord. 45 § 8203, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

### **18.10.140 Enforcement.**

Yurok Tribe Department of Public Safety is authorized to issue citations for any violation of this chapter. [Ord. 45 § 8204, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

## **Article V. Jurisdiction of the Tribal Court**

### **18.10.150 Tribal Court jurisdiction.**

The Tribal Court is the court of primary jurisdiction for violations occurring under this chapter. [Ord. 45 § 8301, adopted, 11/13/2015.]

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**The Yurok Tribal Code is current through Ordinance 68, passed May 21, 2020.**

Disclaimer: The Office of the Tribal Attorney has the official version of the Yurok Tribal Code. Users should contact the Office of the Tribal Attorney for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited here.

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